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LEE HARVEY OSWALD, MEXICO CITY AND THE CENTRAL  
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (OR: "IT'S AN UNTIDY WORLD").

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I. Introduction.

- A. Issues Addressed.
- B. Differences Between the Warren Commission Investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico City and the House Select Committee on Assassinations' Investigation.
- C. Conclusions.
- D. Structure and Relevancy.

II. Central Intelligence Agency Surveillance Operations in Mexico City in September and October 1963.

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- 2. Physical layout of diplomatic compound and surveillance bases.
- 3. Scope of coverage including equipment and procedures utilized.
- 4. Objectives of the operation.
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4. Production from operation.

a. Types.

b. Handling procedures.

(1) resuma

(2) Cuban tapes

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(a) general handling

(b) retention and re-use of tapes

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Sections on  
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~~What was~~ Known by the CIA Mexico City Station Prior to the Assassination and the Sources of That Information.

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5. Possibility that additional information from (the electronic surveillance of) the Soviet compound was available to the Mexico City Station.

6. Possibility that the CIA photo-surveillance obtained a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald.

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B. Information Connected to Lee Harvey Oswald by the Mexico City Station Prior to the Assassination.

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2. Information available (from the Soviet wiretaps) <sup>pertaining to</sup> ~~that was connected with or involved~~ <sup>ing</sup> Lee Harvey Oswald.

3. When were the intercepted conversations linked to Oswald?

4. The photograph of the Mexico Mystery Man.

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A. Introduction - CIA Interest in and Liaison with FBI Regarding American Citizens in Contact with Soviet Bloc Embassies in Mexico City.

B. <sup>B</sup> Narrative.

V. Mexico City Station Reporting of Information Concerning Oswald After the Assassination of President Kennedy.

A. Reporting of Information Concerning the Mexico Mystery Man.

B. Reporting of Information (f m the Electronic Intercept Operation Aimed) at the Soviet Embassy.

C. Silvia Duran.

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Not Available at the Time of the Warren Commission.

A. Silvia Duran.

B. The Cubans--Azcue and Mirabal.

C. Elena Garro de Paz.

D. Oscar Contreras Lartigue.

VII. Reconstruction of Oswald's Activities in Mexico.

A. Introduction.

B. Narrative.

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1. House Select Committee on Assassinations interview of Silvia Tirado.
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VII. Analysis of Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City.

- A. Introduction.
- B. Did Lee Harvey Oswald or an Imposter Contact the Cuban And Soviet Consulates in Mexico City?
- C. Other Than His Visits to the Cuban and Soviet Consulates, What were Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City?
- D. Was Lee Harvey Oswald travelling alone in Mexico?

+ Conclusions.

## I. INTRODUCTION.

### A. Issues Addressed.

The House Select Committee on Assassination's investigation into Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City has been directed at answering the following questions:

- 1) Did Lee Harvey Oswald visit the Soviet and Cuban Consulates or Embassies in Mexico City?
- 2) In addition to the visits which may have been made to the Embassies what were Lee Harvey Oswald's activities while he was in Mexico City?
- 3) Was Lee Harvey Oswald alone in Mexico City? If not, who were his associates and what were their activities?
- 4) Did the Central Intelligence Agency maintain any surveillance operation(s) aimed at the Cuban and Soviet diplomatic missions in Mexico City? If so, what kind?
- 5) What information, if any, about Oswald's stay in Mexico was known by the CIA Mexico City Station prior to the assassination and what was the source of that information?
- 6) Was the information, if any, in the possession of the CIA Mexico City Station reported to the CIA Headquarters accurately and expeditiously prior to the assassination?



- 7) Was the information in the possession of the CIA Mexico City Station reported to the CIA Headquarters accurately and expeditiously after the assassination?
- 8) Was the information developed by the CIA in Mexico City communicated to the Warren Commission in an accurate and expeditious manner?
- 9) Did the CIA photo-surveillance of the Cuban and Soviet diplomatic compounds in Mexico City, if ~~SUCH~~ <sup>Photo surveillance</sup> existed, obtain a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald? If so, what became of that photograph?

B. Differences Between the Warren Commission Investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald's Activities in Mexico City and the House Select Committee on Assassinations Investigation.

The approach taken by this Committee's investigation differs from that of the Warren Commission primarily in terms of scope. The Warren Commission and the investigative agencies at its disposal went to great lengths to establish Oswald's travel to and from Mexico, but devoted minimal effort to evaluating Oswald's contacts with the Cuban and Soviet Consulates. It is the conclusion of this Committee that the Warren Commission established that Oswald had indeed traveled to Mexico City. Hence, this Committee has chosen not to reinvestigate Oswald's travel to and from Mexico City. Instead, the Committee's approach

Soviet and Cuban diplomatic missions in Mexico City and on evidence that was not available to the Warren Commission that could possibly shed light on Oswald's activities in Mexico City outside of the Soviet and Cuban installations.

The Warren Report limited its discussion of Oswald's contacts with the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic missions to information obtained from Sylvia Duran and the Cuban Government. (See Warren Report, pp. 299-304, 733-736). In support of their account of Oswald's contacts with the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic missions, the Warren Commission published the following as exhibits:

- 1) A note from the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Swiss Ambassador in Cuba. (Commission Exhibit 2445)
- 2) Lee Harvey Oswald's visa application and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Public of Cuba's letter denying the visa. (Commission Exhibit 2564)
- 3) Letterhead Memorandum to J. Lee Rankin from Richard Helms re: "Technical Examination of Photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald's Application for a Cuban Visa." (Commission Exhibit 3127)
- 4) The pages of Lee Harvey Oswald's notebook with the telephone numbers of the Cuban Consulate, the Soviet Consulate and the Soviet Military Attache's office. (Commission Exhibit 2121)

- 5) A letter dated 11/9/63 from Lee Harvey Oswald to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C. (Commission Exhibit 15)
- 6) A letter from J. Edgar Hoover to the Warren Commission listing the contents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's file holdings on Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination. (Commission Exhibit 834. This document listed a Central Intelligence Agency "release" dated 10/9/63 that reported Oswald's contact with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City.)
- 7) A memorandum dated 5/14/64 to the United States Embassy in Mexico City from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. (Commission Exhibit 2120)
- 8) A memorandum dated 6/9/64 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico to the United States Embassy in Mexico City. (Commission Exhibit 212<sup>3</sup><sub>V</sub>)
- 9) A letterhead memorandum to J. Lee Rankin from Richard Helms re: "Hours of Work at the Cuban and Soviet Consulates." (Commission Exhibit 2568.) At one point in the Report the Commission referred to other information:

By far the most important confirmation of Senora Duran's testimony, however, has been supplied by confidential sources of extremely high reliability available to the United States in Mexico. The information from these sources establishes that her testimony

was truthful and accurate in all material respects. The identities of these sources cannot be disclosed without destroying their future usefulness to the United States. (Warren Report, p. 305)

The Warren Commission did not print anything in the twenty-six volumes of evidence to support its statement that Silvia Duran's testimony was confirmed by "confidential sources of extremely high reliability."

In an attempt to answer the questions posed by Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to Mexico City in September and October of 1963, the House Select Committee on Assassinations has pursued the following investigative procedure:

- 1) Conducted extensive interviews, depositions, and executive session hearings involving Central Intelligence Agency personnel;
- 2) Interviewed Cuban citizens who could have knowledge of Oswald's sojourn in Mexico;
- 3) Interviewed Mexican citizens who could have knowledge of Oswald's activities and associations while he was in Mexico;
- 4) Conducted an extensive review of the files of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that pertain to Oswald's sojourn in Mexico;
- 5) Conducted an extensive review of the public source documents that pertain to Oswald and Mexico City.

### C. Conclusions

- 1) Someone who identified himself as Lee Harvey

Oswald called the Soviet Consulate on 1 October 1963. This individual indicated that he had visited the Soviet Consulate at least once.

Other evidence would indicate that the individual visited the Soviet and Cuban Consulates on five or six different occasions. While the majority of the evidence tends to indicate that this individual was indeed Lee Harvey Oswald, the possibility that someone else used Lee Harvey Oswald's name during this time in contacts with the Soviet and Cuban Consulate cannot be absolutely dismissed.

- 2) This Committee has not been able to determine Lee Harvey Oswald's activities outside of the Cuban and Soviet Embassies with certainty. There is evidence, which has not been confirmed, indicating that during his stay in Mexico Oswald attended a "twist party" at the home of Ruben Duran Navarro, the brother-in-law of Silvia Duran. There is also unconfirmed evidence which, if true, would indicate that Oswald spent one night and parts of two days with a group of pro-Castro students from the University of Mexico.

3) There is some evidence that Oswald may have been in the company of a tall, thin, blond-headed man while in Mexico. This evidence has not been confirmed. If true, it is possible that this same individual may on occasion have used Oswald's name in dealing with the Cuban and Soviet Consulates. The man's name, if there was such a man, is not known.

4) On the dates that Oswald was in Mexico, the CIA had photographic surveillance operations which covered entrances to the Soviet Embassy and the Cuban Embassy and Consulate. The CIA also had (electronic surveillance on telephones) in the Soviet Consulate and Military Attache's Office and Cuban diplomatic compounds. The (telephone at the Cuban Consulate was not subject to that surveillance.

5) The CIA's Mexico City Station definitely knew of Oswald's contacts with both the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic compounds and of his desire to obtain an intransit visa for travel to Russia via Cuba.

The source of this information was the (electronic surveillance on the Soviet Consulate and Soviet Military Attache's Office.

- all
- 6) The information in the possession of the CIA Mexico City Station was not reported to CIA Headquarters in an accurate and expeditious manner prior to the assassination.
- 7) With the exception of a few, possibly benign, irregularities, and considering the possibility that not all of the information available to the Station has been provided to this Committee, the information in the possession of the CIA Mexico Station was reported in an accurate and expeditious manner after the assassination to headquarters.
- 8) With the exception of those areas that involved sensitive sources and methods, such as the information pertaining to the (electronic and) photographic surveillance of the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic compounds, the information developed by the CIA in Mexico was generally relayed to the Warren Commission in an accurate and expeditious manner.
- 9) It is the conclusion of this Committee that the CIA's photo-surveillance operations in Mexico City probably obtained a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald entering either or both the Soviet and Cuban Consulates. The CIA denies that such a photograph exists. Hence, the disposition of the photograph which the Committee believes <sup>EXISTED</sup> ~~to exist~~

is unknown.

D. Note on the Structure and Relevancy of the Following  
Report (Or: Apologia of the Analytic Method Employed).

The following report detailing the results of this Committee's investigative efforts regarding Mexico City is divided into general areas:

- 1) CIA surveillance operations in Mexico City during September and October of 1963;
- 2) Information about Lee Harvey Oswald's stay in Mexico City that was known prior to the assassination;
- 3) Reconstruction of the CIA Mexico City Station and Headquarter's activity regarding Oswald prior to the assassination;
- 4) Mexico City reporting of information after the assassination;
- 5) Silvia Duran;
- 6) Investigation of related information that was not available to the Warren Commission; and
- 7) Reconstruction of Oswald's activities in Mexico City

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the file in  
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explains  
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The reader should be advised at the outset that the first section following is technical in nature and may not appear directly relevant at first blush. But the report is



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